(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Agreement entered into with M/s Hindustan Lever Limited provides for protection of employees' interest. The transfer of management has been effected in atmosphere of cordiality.

Effect of Chemical Fertilizers

†5. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of ill-effects of uses of chemical fertilizers are coming to the force; if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to deal with them;

(b) what are the other fertilizers being used as an alternative to the chemical fertilizers in the country and the percentage of total cultivable land in which these fertilizers are being used; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to encourage the use of said fertilizer?

THE MINISTER. OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The average consumption of fertilizer nutrients (NPK) in India is about 90 Kg/ha. The fertilizer consumption gives economic response and high yields at a much higher does of fertilizer nutrients. The nutrient consumption in Pakistan, in broadly identical situation is 113 Kg/ha., in Bangladesh 135 Kg/ha. and in Sri Lanka 160 Kg/ha. The consumption in developed countries is much higher being 375 Kg/ha in Japan, 542 Kg/ha in Netherlands and 379 Kg/ha in U.K. The fertilizer consumption in India, therefore, cannot be termed as excessive and as such the question of ill-effect does not arise.

The studies conducted by ICAR with the application of high rates of nitrogen (above 200 Kg/ha., year) in the light textured soils followed by heavy irrigation showed that there is nitrate pollution of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

underground water which can be termed as ill-effect. However, this is not the normal practice to recommend such high doses of nitrogen in the light textured soils. Moreover, improved water use management practices are recommended to check leaching of nutrients and pollution of ground waters.

(b) Government is promoting use of compost, manure and bio-fertilizers in conjunction with chemical fertilizers as a balanced fertilization concept in order to maintain fertility of the soils. There is no separate cultivable land specified for exclusive use of these supplementary sources of nutrients.

(c) Government is encouraging production of bio-fertilizers and compost by providing financial incentives for setting up bio-fertilizer production units and compost plants for processing of city biodegradable waste into compost.

Agriculture Training Centres

6. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are envisaged to revitalise the extension services in the States;

(b) whether Government will consider supporting the setting up of regional/district agriculture training Centres for farmers and extension works by funding through a special programme for the purpose;

(c) as the States spend large amounts on salaries of extension personnel whether the lack of infrastructure and lack of funds has reduced the effectiveness of the extension services;

(d) what steps Government envisage to support States; and

(e) whether a special Central scheme will be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):